

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DAVID COUCH, SR., et al.,  
Plaintiffs,  
v.  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, et al.,  
Defendants.

No. 2:24-cv-0481 TLN AC

PROTECTIVE ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the parties' Stipulated Protective Order (ECF No. 24), is APPROVED and INCORPORATED herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

1. Requests to seal documents shall be made by motion before the same judge who will decide the matter related to that request to seal.
2. The designation of documents (including transcripts of testimony) as confidential pursuant to this order does not automatically entitle the parties to file such a document with the court under seal. Parties are advised that any request to seal documents in this district is governed by E.D. Cal. R. ("Local Rule") 141. In brief, Local Rule 141 provides that documents may only be sealed by a written order of the court after a specific request to seal has been made. Local Rule 141(a). However, a mere request to seal is not enough under the local rules. In particular, Local Rule 141(b) requires that "[t]he 'Request to Seal Documents' shall set forth *the statutory or*

1 *other authority for sealing*, the requested duration, the identity, by name or category, of persons  
2 to be permitted access to the document, and all relevant information.” Local Rule 141(b)  
3 (emphasis added).

4 3. A request to seal material must normally meet the high threshold of showing that  
5 “compelling reasons” support secrecy; however, where the material is, at most, “tangentially  
6 related” to the merits of a case, the request to seal may be granted on a showing of “good cause.”  
7 Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC, 809 F.3d 1092, 1096-1102 (9th Cir.), cert. denied,  
8 137 S. Ct. 38 (2016); Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178-80 (9th  
9 Cir. 2006).

10 4. Nothing in this order shall limit the testimony of parties or non-parties, or the use of  
11 certain documents, at any court hearing or trial – such determinations will only be made by the  
12 court at the hearing or trial, or upon an appropriate motion.

13 5. With respect to motions regarding any disputes concerning this protective order which  
14 the parties cannot informally resolve, including any disputes regarding inadvertently produced  
15 materials under Fed. R. Evid. 502, the parties shall follow the procedures outlined in Local  
16 Rule 251. Absent a showing of good cause, the court will not hear discovery disputes on an *ex*  
17 *parte* basis or on shortened time.


18 6. The parties may not modify the terms of this Protective Order without the court’s  
19 approval. If the parties agree to a potential modification, they shall submit a stipulation  
20 and proposed order for the court’s consideration.

21 7. Pursuant to Local Rule 141.1(f), the court will not retain jurisdiction over enforcement  
22 of the terms of this Protective Order after the action is terminated.

23 8. Any provision in the parties’ stipulation (ECF No. 24) that is in conflict with anything  
24 in this order is hereby DISAPPROVED.

25 IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 DATED: March 31, 2025

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ALLISON CLAIRE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE